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Sen. Van Woerkom restores funding for MI Choice program

LANSING – Enrollment in the MI Choice program would remain open under an amendment to the Department of Community Health budget offered Tuesday by Sen. Gerald Van Woerkom.

“The MI Choice program gives individuals the freedom to remain in their own homes, where they feel most comfortable,” said Van Woerkom, R-Norton Shores. “For many patients who do not need round-the-clock care, home care is often a more effective, less expensive alternative to nursing home care.”

The Van Woerkom amendment would restore funding to MI Choice, the Medicaid home and community based services waiver program. Restoring this funding would allow the program to continue to accept new enrollees.

Through this program, eligible adults who meet income and asset criteria can receive Medicaid-covered services like those provided by nursing homes, but can remain in their own home or another residential setting. The average cost of in-home care is \$42 per day, while the average cost of care in a nursing facility is more than \$100 per day.

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